

STAT

7

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 37NEWSWEEK
16 February 1981

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The CIA's New Super-Spy—

It is only 20 miles from Central Intelligence Agency headquarters on the Potomac River in Langley, Va., to National Security Agency headquarters at Fort Meade, Md. But at times the two seem light years apart—institutional rivals for prestige, power and money in the top-secret world of espionage. The CIA is far better known, but the NSA, the code-breaking arm of the Pentagon, is an elite group that frequently has more clout inside government. The institutional rivalry is such that at Fort Meade the CIA is referred to as "TBAR," shorthand for "those bastards across the river." Now, in a widely praised bureaucratic shuffle, NSA boss Bobby Ray Inman is moving across the river to become the No. 2 man at the CIA.

Inman, 49, a superstar in the intelligence community, will team up with CIA boss William J. Casey, 67, in an effort to restore power and morale to an agency that has suffered from scandal and budget cuts in recent years. Casey, who was Ronald Reagan's campaign manager, will be Mr. Outside, guaranteed a sympathetic ear at the White House not only from President Reagan and Vice President Bush (a former CIA director) but from top aides Ed Meese, Jim Baker and Michael Deaver, all of whom worked for Casey during the campaign. Inman, who knows the intelligence bureaucracy fluently, will be Mr. Inside, running the CIA's daily operations. The two men are likely to play complementary roles in other ways, too. Casey will give special attention to "human intelligence," drawing on his own experience as an OSS spy during World War II. Inman will concentrate on streamlining the agency's bureaucracy and maintaining cordial relations with Congress.

Persuasive: Inman may well turn out to be a key player in rebuilding the CIA, which has gone through five directors in eight years. A Texan from the small town of Rhonesboro, 90 miles from Dallas, he has spent 28 years in the Navy, rising to admiral—a rare accomplishment for someone who did not attend Annapolis. As NSA director, he was a tough-minded administrator who dealt expertly with the NSA's vast technical operation, thrived in the spotlight of Congressional oversight, and won praise for going to the Justice

boss Stansfield Turner tried to wrest control of NSA from the Pentagon. When Defense Secretary Harold Brown learned of a lunch between Turner and Attorney General Griffin Bell to discuss the plan, Brown dispatched Inman in a helicopter to pick up Bell and give him a whirlwind tour of NSA. No one was more surprised than Turner when Bell showed up for the lunch at the CIA helipad freshly persuaded by Inman to leave things as they were. "He's a very



Inman: Crossing the river

persuasive man," says Bell.

At first, Inman was not eager to join the CIA; with two sons to put through college, he planned to seek a high-paying corporate job. But Casey promised him a fourth star (making him one of the youngest full admirals in history) and even arranged a personal plea from the President himself. Inman agreed to sign up, and at his Senate confirmation hearings last week, he won high praise. "If ever there was unanimous consent and enthusiasm, this is it," gushed Sen. Richard Lugar.

Like Casey, who reassured jittery CIA employees last week that there would not be another bureaucratic shake-up, Inman worries most about the shortage of experienced analysts and agents at the CIA. Despite the Federal hiring freeze, Inman

and appointment book looks like the ticket for the OSS veterans association," says one associate.

Tinkering: Casey and Inman also need to upgrade the CIA's ability to evaluate information. The agency has consistently underestimated Soviet strength and has sometimes failed to give early warning on such major political upheavals as the Iranian revolution. Casey will make greater use of university consultants as analysts. Also on the agenda: beefing up the CIA's counterintelligence unit, asking Congress for some relief from the Freedom of Information Act and for a ban on publishing the names of undercover agents. Much of this is tinkering, but the CIA will certainly benefit from an increased budget, from having so many friends in high places—and above all from the administrative abilities of an old spy and the young admiral he recruited from across the river.

MICHAEL REESE with DAVID C. MARTIN
in Washington